

House File 2166 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2166
BY REICHERT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring provision of deliverable fuels to customers
2 under specified circumstances, and including effective date
3 provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 216A.105 Deliverable fuels —
2 mandatory delivery — qualifications.

3 1. A deliverable fuel vendor engaged in the business of
4 providing deliverable fuel to customers in this state shall
5 not withhold the sale or delivery of deliverable fuel to a
6 customer between November 1 and April 1 annually if either of
7 the following apply:

8 a. The customer documents that they are able to make a cash
9 payment for deliverable fuel of five hundred dollars.

10 b. The customer is eligible for the federal low-income home
11 energy assistance program.

12 2. A deliverable fuel vendor providing deliverable fuel to a
13 customer described in subsection 1, paragraph "a", may apply the
14 customer's cash payment as follows:

15 a. Seventy-five percent toward the current deliverable fuel
16 sale or delivery.

17 b. Twenty-five percent toward any unpaid balance.

18 3. The division shall adopt rules governing contracts and
19 agreements with deliverable fuel vendors pursuant to this
20 section in order to protect the rights of persons who heat
21 their homes with deliverable fuels.

22 4. For the purposes of this section, unless the context
23 otherwise requires:

24 a. "Deliverable fuel" means propane or any other heating
25 fuel sold or delivered in this state for home heating purposes.

26 b. "Deliverable fuel vendor" means a retail propane
27 dispenser, retail propane marketer, or a retail dispenser or
28 marketer of a deliverable fuel other than propane.

29 c. "Propane", "retail propane dispenser", and "retail propane
30 marketer" mean the same as defined in section 101C.2.

31 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
32 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill prohibits a deliverable fuel vendor from
35 withholding the sale or delivery of deliverable fuel to

1 a customer between November 1 and April 1 annually if the
2 customer meets one of two alternative criteria.

3 One criteria qualifies customers for delivery if they are
4 eligible for the federal low-income home energy assistance
5 program.

6 The second criteria qualifies customers who can document
7 that they are able to make a cash payment for deliverable fuel
8 of \$500. The bill provides that in the event an unpaid balance
9 by the customer exists, 75 percent of this cash payment may be
10 allocated by the deliverable fuel vendor toward the current
11 deliverable fuel sale or delivery, and that 25 percent may be
12 allocated toward the unpaid balance.

13 The bill directs the division of community action agencies
14 of the department of human rights to adopt rules governing
15 contracts and agreements with deliverable fuel vendors in
16 order to protect the rights of persons who heat their homes
17 with deliverable fuels. Definitions of "deliverable fuel",
18 "deliverable fuel vendor", and "propane" are supplied.

19 The bill takes effect upon enactment.